

automatically reducing the rate of pullback if a rotation speed of the drill string is less than a predetermined limit.

5. (Previously presented) The method of claim 4 further comprising attaching a utility line to the backreamer.

6. (Previously presented) The method of claim 5 further comprising automatically recording the actual location of the utility line as the utility line is automatically pulled through the borehole.

7. (Previously presented) The method of claim 4 further comprising increasing the rate of pullback if the rotation pressure is less than the predetermined limit, the rotation speed of the drill string is greater than a predetermined limit, and the product tension at the backreamer is less than a predetermined limit.

8. (Previously presented) The method of claim 7 wherein the rate of pullback is increased by five percent if the rotation pressure is less than the predetermined limit, the rotation speed of the drill string is greater than the predetermined limit, and the product tension at the backreamer is less than the predetermined limit.

9. (Previously presented) The method of claim 4 wherein the rate of pullback is reduced by twenty percent if the rotation pressure is greater than the predetermined limit.

10. (Previously presented) The method of claim 4 wherein the rate of pullback is reduced by ten percent if the rotation speed of the drill string is less than a predetermined limit.

11. (Previously presented) The method of claim 4 further comprising automatically reducing a rate of pullback if the rotation speed of the drill string is within a predetermined range and a product tension at the backreamer is greater than a predetermined limit.

Please add the following claim:

12. (New) The method of claim 4 wherein the step of automatically reducing a length of the drill string comprises automatically removing a pipe section from the drill string.